

La Brea Loops and Lenses

A JOURNEY THROUGH MULTIPLE EPOCHS



The La Brea Tar Pits and Museum are an enduring source of wonder for our exploration and understanding of the world. Few other parks in the world bring active discovery and raw curiosity into such tantalizingly close reach. Few other museums in the world juxtapose real-time excavation with imaginative display.

The La Brea **Loops** and **Lenses** redefines Hancock Park and the Page Museum as one unified experience. The continuous **loops** connect the rich but disparate existing structures, adding amenities for community and research. The park areas connected by the loops capture three distinguishing themes: research and revelation, community and culture, and spectacle and urban fiction. Each area is designed to be environmentally sensitive and to maximize space for the community, creating opportunities for the public to engage with the site's unique history. The different identities of the intertwining

loops embody journeys that encourage discovery, with programming that appeals to diverse interests—from paleontology to bird watching, from artwork and performances to kids' playgrounds.

The **lenses**, as framed views throughout the park and museum, bring into focus the research and museum collection that contains over 3.5 million specimens. The proposed design of the Page Museum expansion is rooted in a close analysis of the existing building, preserving and magnifying its unique strengths. The beloved grass slope and terrace of the museum is doubled in size and made accessible in the expansion to provide more opportunities for recreation. The museum treasures will be revealed to visitors, bringing the museum to the park, and the park into the public imagination.



Enhance Hancock Park's Environmental Identity



SITE PLAN The La Brea Loops, a triple mobius path, links all existing elements of the park and provides a connected identity.



ARRIVAL EXPERIENCE The entry canopy is the gateway between city and park, providing orientation, legibility, and shade.



MICROGARDEN Intimate paleobotanical gardens are situated throughout the park to provide a place for contemplation.



SCIENCE WALK Along the loops, the pits reveal scientific discovery, and involve and engage the community.

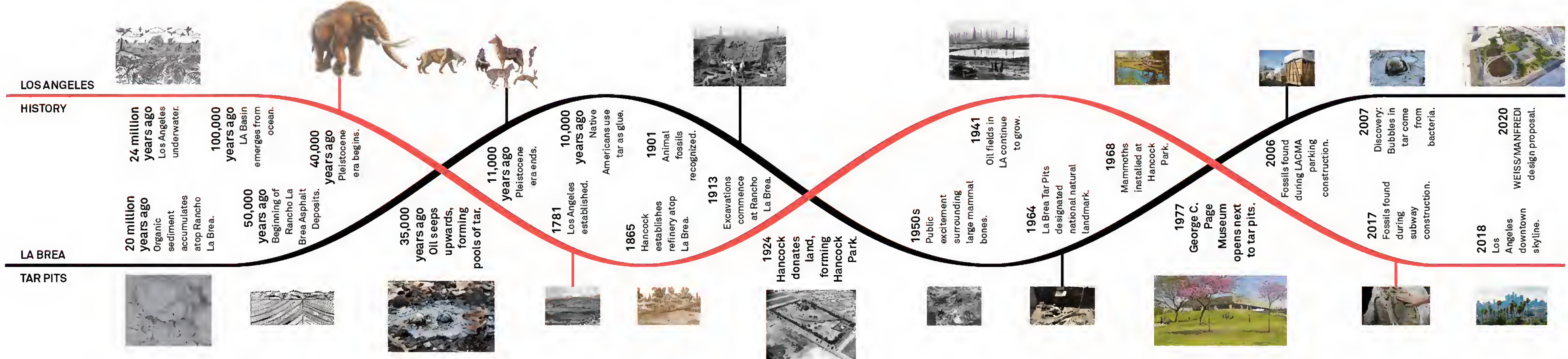


PLAY AREA Pit stops for play populate the loop.

CONNECT HISTORIES: L.A. AND THE LA BREA TAR PITS

The long geological and paleontological history of the Tar Pits and the relatively short history of Los Angeles have been interconnected in continuous and paradoxical ways. Here, science is neither imported nor described, but is literally extracted from this ever-changing site. The tactile reality of the La Brea Tar Pits has preserved the flora and fauna from the Pleistocene past in a city committed to inventing real and imaginary futures.

How can these histories connect in new revealing ways?



Connect the Museum and Park to the Cultural Landscape



BRIDGE ACROSS LAKE PIT Two pedestrian paths bring people above the Lake Pit, a site for urban fiction and imagination.



REVEAL THE COLLECTION The plinth is lifted open at the central green to reveal the museum.



EXPANDED PLATEAU The Page platform extends to create an accessible and shaded public destination.



PROJECT 91 The active excavation sites unique to La Brea place park visitors at the center of scientific discoveries.



PARK'S EDGE Site walls along Wilshire create surprise and intrigue, drawing passersby in for further exploration.

AMPLIFY THE PARK IDENTITIES

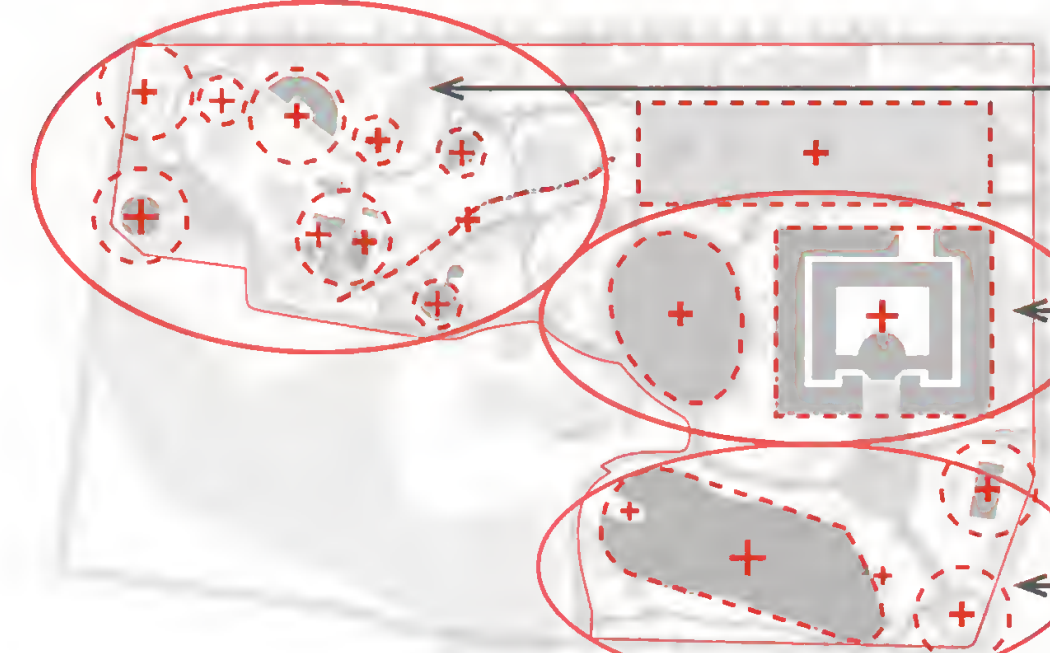
The creation of Hancock park was a gift to the community over 100 years ago. Over time the park and museum have evolved idiosyncratically. The existing collection of pathways wander through the park yet fail to create legible connections. However, a collection of latent identities does exist on the site today. "Excavation and discovery" characterize the north west precinct, "community gathering and the Page Museum" give focus to the center, and "the lake pits and park amenities" are visible from Wilshire.

How can we connect and clarify the latent identities of each park precinct so that science and recreation support each other across the whole of the park?

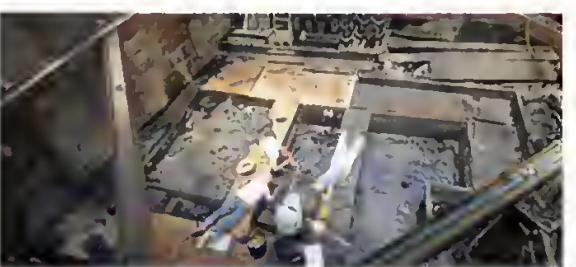
EXISTING CONDITIONS



MAPPING EXISTING CONDITIONS



RESEARCH & REVELATION
The excavation pits and the Pleistocene Garden.



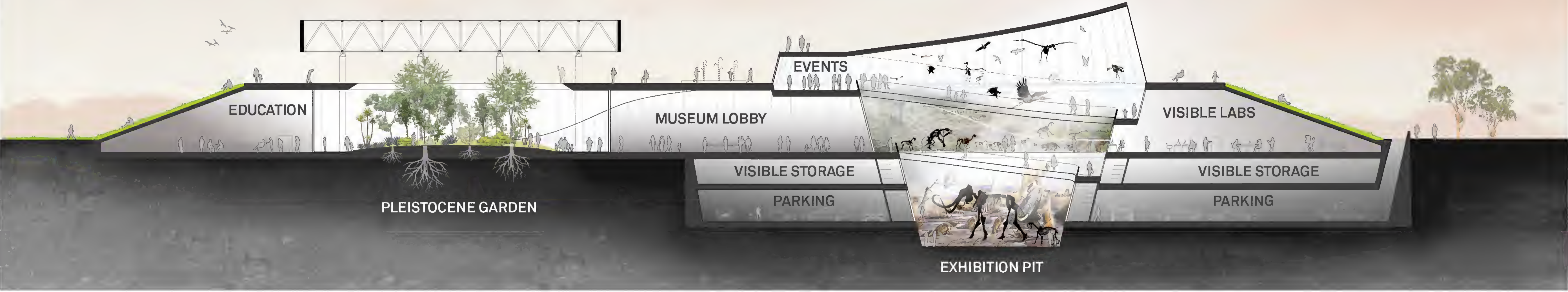
COMMUNITY & CULTURE
The museum and the central green.



SPECTACLE & URBAN FICTIONS
The lake pit and the mastodons.



Magnify the Museum's Visibility



BUILDING SECTION A new Pleistocene garden in the existing Page Museum and new exhibitions, galleries, labs, and visible storage in the expansion renew the identity of the museum.



MAIN LEVEL PLAN A central lobby connects the rejuvenated Page Museum and new expansion.



PLATEAU LEVEL PLAN The expanded plateau creates a setting for public programming and a café.



CENTRAL LAWN The museum's lobby and café are visible from the enlarged central green.



LABS AND EXHIBITION Panoramic labs flank the exhibition pit, encouraging dialogue between the past and present.



CAFE AND GARDEN The café, with views into the central lawn and the Pleistocene Garden, is available to the public.



NORTHEAST DROP-OFF With parking situated underground, the northeast corner becomes a drop-off for buses and cars.

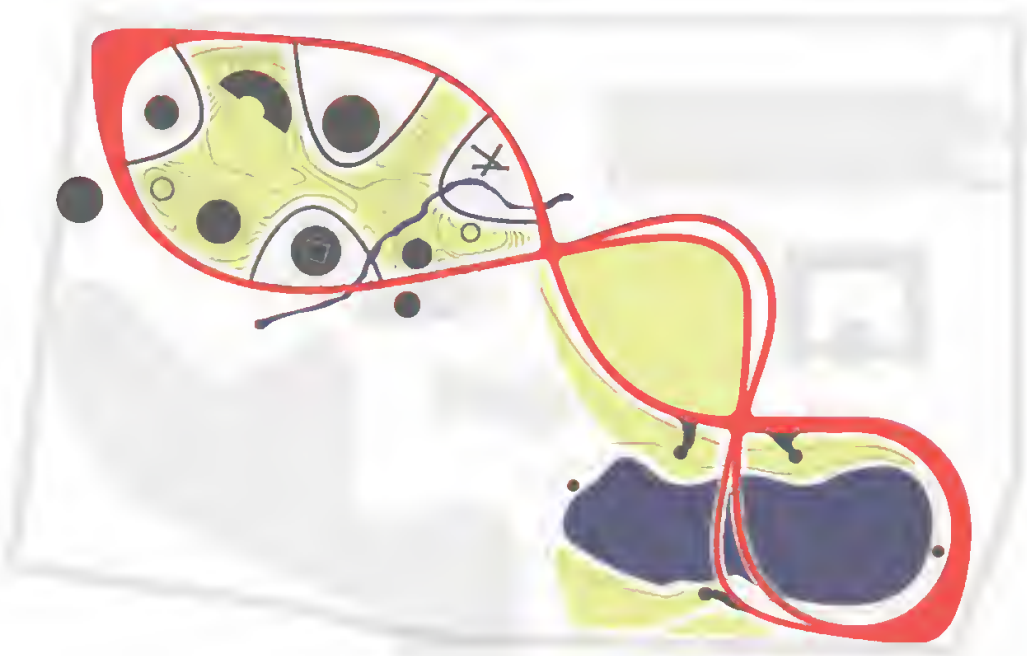
REIMAGINE THE PARK & MUSEUM

THE LOOPS: Create a connecting framework
The 1-kilometer continuous loop wanders through the park and connects the community to both real science and speculative histories.

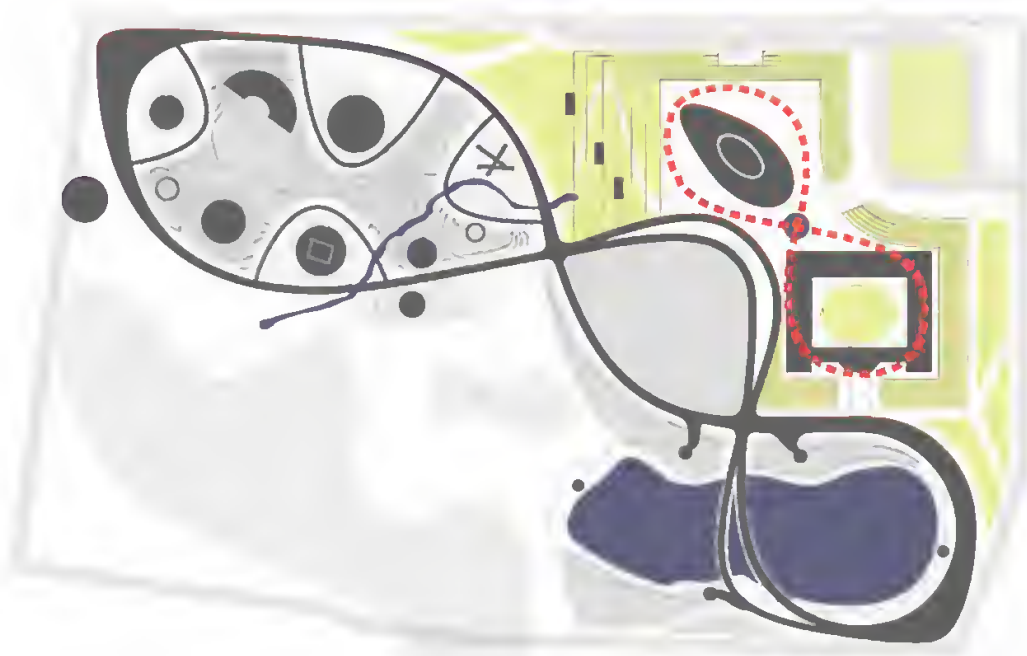
THE LENSES: Expand the museum to reveal the collection
Science and exhibition are brought together to be legible from afar and informative up-close.

THE LANDSCAPE: A place that grows and changes over time
400 new trees and a Pleistocene-inspired plant palette offer shade and shelter throughout the park.

LOOPS



LENSES

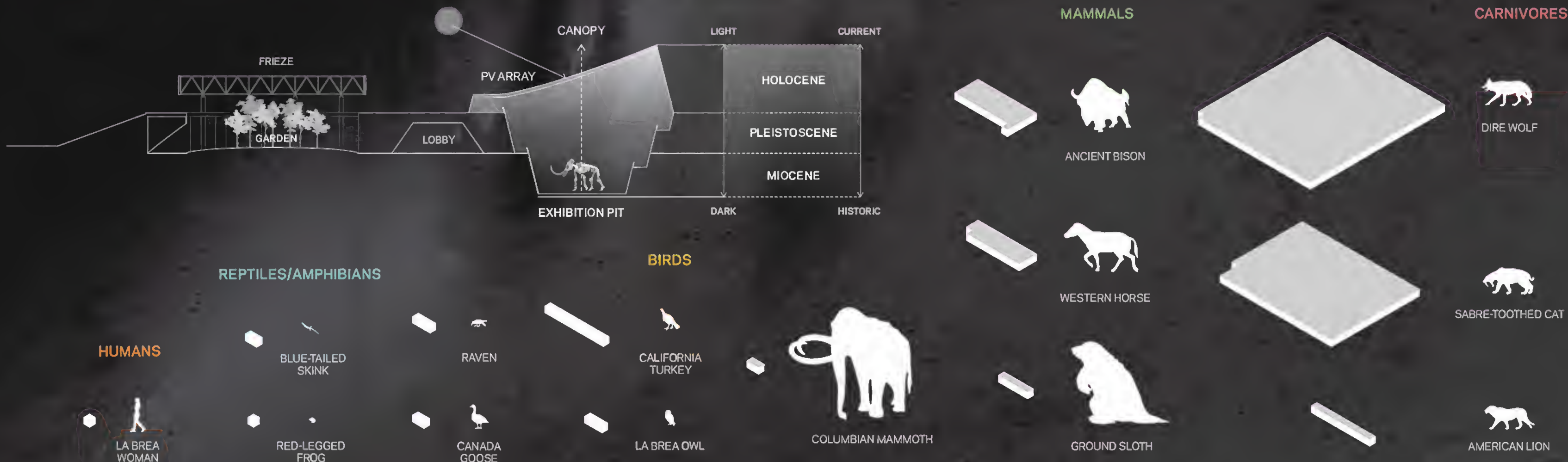
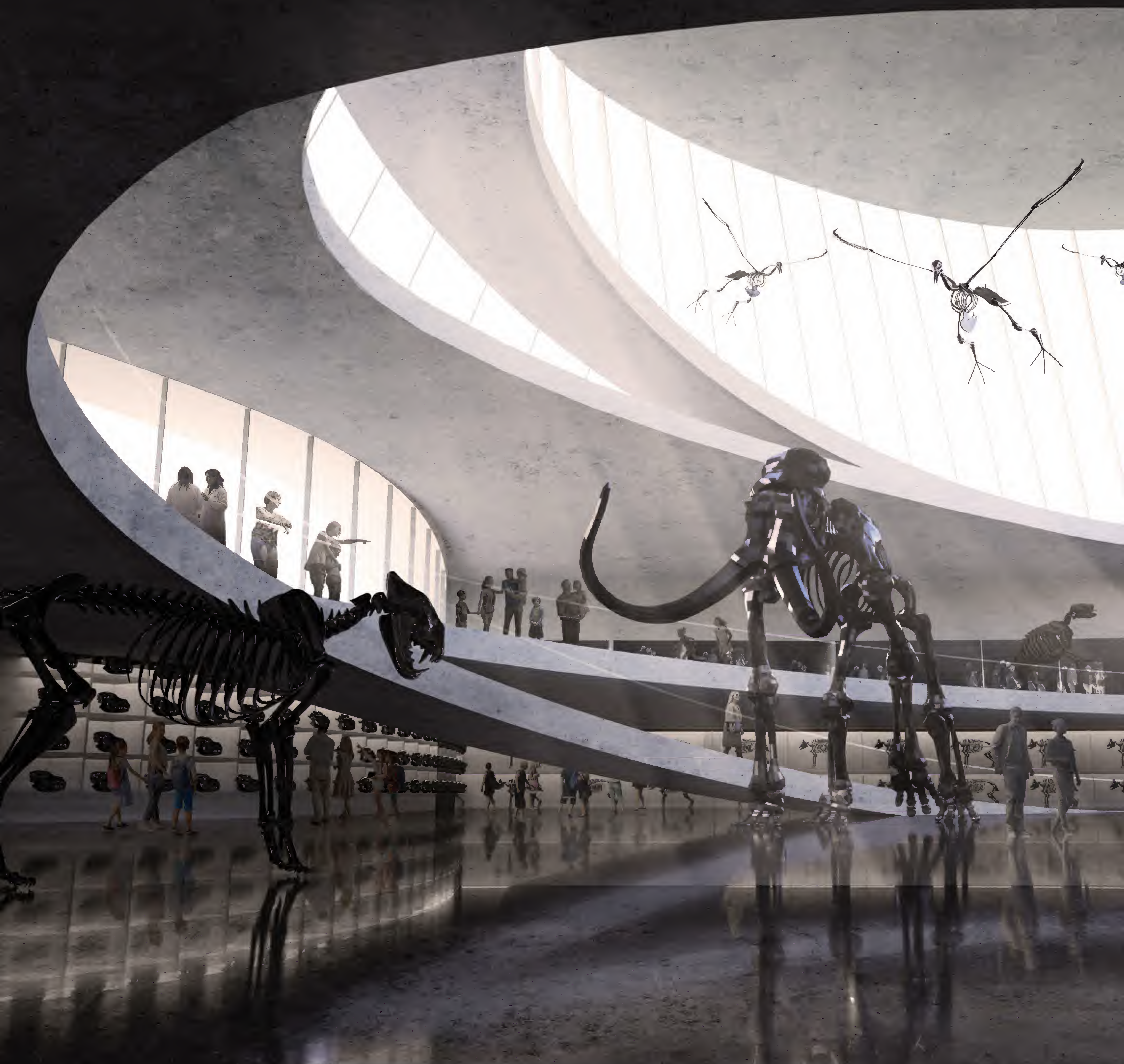


LANDSCAPE



Reveal the Museum Collection

A MAGNIFYING LENS FOR LOS ANGELES' NATURAL HISTORY



THE COLLECTION

An ascending central hall reveals the Page Museum collection, making its wonders visible from afar and powerfully compelling up-close.

